

**To:** Thomas, Hattie[Thomas.Hattie@epa.gov]  
**From:** Washburn, Ben  
**Sent:** Wed 4/2/2014 7:59:47 PM  
**Subject:** OPA Daily Digest 4/2/14

## **OPA Daily Digest for 4/2/14**

### **Congressional Inquiries:**

**Sen. Mark Warner (Va.)** – Letter – 3/27/14: Constituent concerns about the closing of the Doe Run Company in Herculaneum. Due: 4/7/14. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

### **State Government Inquiries:**

None

### **Press Inquiries:**

**Associated Press (Kansas City)** – Maria Fisher – 3/14/14: Status update on Office of Inspector General's request to Region 7 regarding National Zinc mining site cleanup. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (closed)

**KWMU Public Radio, St. Louis** – Veronique LaCapra – 4/1/14: Questions about West Lake Landfill Site in Bridgeton, Mo. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (open)

**Daily Iowan**, Iowa City, Iowa - Gabriella Simon – 4/2/14: Questions about cellulosic ethanol were referred to HQ. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557 (closed)

**Kansas Farmer** – P.J. Griekspoor – 4/2/14: Discussed regional administrator's op-editorial about waters of the U.S. and placement in next issue of magazine. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557 (closed)

**Nebraska Farmer** – Don McCabe – 4/1/14: Contacted and encouraged placement of regional administrator's op-editorial about water of the U.S. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557 (closed)

## **Environmental Stories:**

**KSDK Channel 5, St. Louis – Missouri AG gives update on Bridgeton, West Lake landfills – 4/2/14 -** It's been one year since Attorney General Chris Koster filed suit against Republic Services alleging a series of environmental law violations relating to events at the West Lake Landfill.

<http://www.ksdk.com/story/news/local/2014/04/02/chris-koster-bridgeton-landfill-west-lake-landfill-epa/7210779/>

**St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Cleanup of sewage leak into MacKenzie Creek could take a few days - 4/2/14 -** Crews with the Metropolitan Sewer District will spend the next few days cleaning up a 7,000 foot section of the creek. [http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/metro/cleanup-of-sewage-leak-into-mackenzie-creek-could-take-a/article\\_ef948da2-51d8-55f2-ab25-6a326bff7f00.html](http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/metro/cleanup-of-sewage-leak-into-mackenzie-creek-could-take-a/article_ef948da2-51d8-55f2-ab25-6a326bff7f00.html)

**Radio Iowa - Senator Grassley says EPA head going overboard in regulating waters - 4/1/14 -** Iowa Senator Chuck Grassley is accusing the head of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency of overstepping her authority in trying to more closely regulate Iowa's waterways. <http://www.radioiowa.com/2014/04/01/senator-grassley-says-epa-head-going-overboard-in-regulating-waters/>

**Southeast Missourian (Cape Girardeau, Mo.) - Missouri House bill would curb regulations on wood stoves - 4/2/14 -** Members of the Missouri House of Representatives came together in a bipartisan effort Tuesday morning to approve a bill that prohibits the implementation of regulations on wood-burning heaters. <http://www.semissourian.com/story/2066019.html>

**KSPR Ch. 33 Springfield, Mo. - Branson man faces federal charges of violating clean water act - 4/2/14 -** Today's indictment alleges that Earl Patrick Kearney altered the reports he submitted to the state so that it appeared the Overlook subdivision and the Morningside development were in compliance with their wastewater discharge permits. [http://www.kspr.com/news/local/branson-man-faces-federal-charges-of-violating-clean-water-act/21051620\\_25272988](http://www.kspr.com/news/local/branson-man-faces-federal-charges-of-violating-clean-water-act/21051620_25272988)

**Des Moines Register - Biofuels industry bill approved by Iowa Senate 48-0 - 4/1/14 -** Senate File 2344, which was sent to the House, will increase the tax credit for E15 blended gasoline during the summer months, extend the biodiesel production tax credit for five years to retain and attract biodiesel production to Iowa, and add biobutanol – an advanced biofuel – to the state's renewable fuels industry. <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/politics/2014/04/01/biofuels-iowa-senate/7178113/>

**Hays Daily News - City faces \$18,000 fine for wastewater treatment violations** - 4/2/14 - The Environmental Protection Agency has levied an \$18,000 fine on the city of Hays for violations committed in 2012 at the city's wastewater treatment facility. <http://hdnews.net/news/CityPre040214>

**Omaha World-Herald - Renewable energy proposal lacks enough votes among Nebraska lawmakers, goes dark** - 4/2/14 - A state senator pulled the plug Tuesday on a bill to encourage more renewable energy development in Nebraska. <http://www.omaha.com/article/20140402/NEWS/140409731/1016>

**Radio Iowa - Boosting state tax break for E15 to a dime a gallon in the summer** - 4/2/14 - The Iowa Senate has voted to significantly boost the tax break for E15 during the summer. Ethanol-blended fuel gets a three-cents-per-gallon break on state taxes, but if the bill becomes law that would swell in the summer to 10-cents-a-gallon for fuel with a 15 percent ethanol blend. <http://www.radioiowa.com/2014/04/02/boosting-state-tax-break-for-e15-to-a-dime-a-gallon-in-the-summer/>

**Brownfield Ag News - Farmer data protected in House bill** - 4/1/14 - The Missouri Cattlemen's Association supports a bill recently introduced in the Missouri House that exempts some data from the federal Animal Disease Traceability Rule from being made public under the Missouri Sunshine law. <http://brownfieldagnews.com/2014/04/01/farmer-data-protected-house-bill/>

**WNAX Radio Yankton, S.D. - Iowa Senator Upset With EPA Proposed Rule** (+audio) - 4/2/14 - Iowa Senator Chuck Grassley is vowing to fight EPA over their proposed Clean Water Act rule over waters of the United States. Grassley is encouraging people to submit their comments to EPA on the proposed rule. <http://wnax.com/news/180081-iowa-senator-upset-with-epa-proposed-rule/>

**Fox News - EPA accused of stonewalling records requests from conservative groups** - 4/2/14 - A conservative legal group filed a lawsuit against the Environmental Protection Agency on Tuesday, accusing the agency of stonewalling records requests and engaging in political bias when granting fee waivers for documents. <http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2014/04/02/epa-accused-stonewalling-records-requests-from-conservative-groups/>

**NIST (release) - NIST Issues Final Joplin Tornado Report, Begins Effort to Improve Standards and Codes** - 4/2/14 - The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has released the final report on its technical investigation into the impacts of the May 22, 2011, tornado that struck Joplin, Mo. [http://www.nist.gov/el/building\\_materials/joplin-032614.cfm](http://www.nist.gov/el/building_materials/joplin-032614.cfm)

**Union of Concerned Scientists (blog) - Which Costs More? Transmission Lines for 10x More Renewable**

**Energy, or Pipelines for 2x More Natural Gas** - 4/1/14 - Two recent reports make clear that long-distance gas pipeline infrastructure will cost more than the transmission investment needed for achieving 80% renewable electricity. <http://blog.ucsusa.org/which-costs-more-renewables-natural-gas-infrastructure-468>

**Greentech Media - Utility Exelon Wants to Kill Wind and Solar Subsidies While Keeping Nukes** - 4/1/14 - Exelon, the biggest owner of U.S. nuclear power, has renewed its fight to kill wind's production tax credit -- and if Exelon gets its way, solar's investment tax credit may be next. <http://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/Utility-Exelon-Trying-to-Kill-Wind-and-Solar-Subsidies-While-Keeping-Nukes>

**Greentech Media - Citigroup Says the 'Age of Renewables' Has Begun** - 4/1/14 - Investment banking giant Citigroup has hailed the start of the "age of renewables" in the United States, the world's biggest electricity market, saying that solar and wind energy are becoming competitive with natural gas peaking and baseload plants. <http://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/citigroup-says-the-age-of-renewables-has-begun>

**Reuters - Analysis: Coal-reliant states readying for EPA power plant rules** - 4/1/14 - Long before the Obama administration promised sweeping rules to limit pollution from power plants, states in the crosshairs of what critics call a "war on coal" have been finding ways to meet the expected new standards. <http://in.reuters.com/article/2014/04/01/usa-climate-regulation-idINL2N0MD07A20140401>

**Brookings (blog) - An EPA-Sanctioned State-Based Carbon Tax Could Reduce Emissions and Improve State Finances** - 4/2/14 - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is developing a proposed rule due out in June that could allow states to use carbon excise taxes or fees to limit the one-third of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions that come from power plants. <http://www.brookings.edu/blogs/up-front/posts/2014/04/01-epa-carbon-tax-can-help-environment-state-finances-morris>

**Charlotte News-Observer (N.C.) - Duke: Disposal of coal ash impossible if EPA declares it hazardous** - 4/2/14 - As underlined by an environmental group last week, there are no clear answers about where the more than 100 million tons of Duke Energy coal ash is supposed to go to make it safe and secure. <http://www.newsobserver.com/2014/04/01/3749652/duke-finding-place-for-coal-ash.html>

**Human Events - Sen. Inhofe gets serious about the cost of environmental regulation** - 4/1/14 - Senator Jim Inhofe (R-OK) recently introduced a bill called the EPA Employment Impact Analysis act, which would force the Environmental Protection Agency to calculate the full economic impact of existing regulations before finalizing any major new rules. <http://www.humanevents.com/2014/04/01/sen-inhofe-gets-serious-about-the-cost-of-environmental-regulation/>

**Scientific American (podcast) - Citizen Environmental Monitoring Could Keep Officials Honest** (+audio) - 4/1/14 - Smartphones, cheap satellite imaging and crowd-funded enterprises have made citizen oversight possible

that was undreamt of by past transparency advocates and environmentalists. David Biello reports.  
<http://www.scientificamerican.com/podcast/episode/citizen-environment-monitoring/>

**The Hill (blog) - Showdown puts energy credit at risk** - 4/1/14 - The Senate Finance Committee's abrupt move to take up "tax extenders" legislation is testing the lobbying clout of the renewable energy sector and other special interests in Washington. <http://thehill.com/blogs/on-the-money/domestic-taxes/202384-showdown-on-tax-breaks-puts-energy-credit-at-risk>

**The Hill - Crucial climate regs head to White House** - 4/1/14 - Draft regulations that would place tough new limits on emissions from the nation's existing power plants has moved to the White House, according to records posted Tuesday by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). <http://thehill.com/blogs/regwatch/energy-environment/202281-crucial-climate-regs-head-to-white-house>

**Fuel Fix - Senators leave popular tax credit out of renewable fuel proposal** - 4/2/14 - Top senators on Tuesday unveiled their plan for renewing a slew of tax credits that expired last year, including measures aimed at offsetting the cost of plug-in motorcycles and making biofuels. But a popular tax credit that had helped finance wind farms across the United States didn't make the cut. <http://fuelfix.com/blog/2014/04/01/top-senators-propose-tax-credits-for-biofuels-but-not-wind/>

**Forbes - Oil & Gas Boom 2014: A Withering Regulatory Assault** - 4/1/14 - commitment to an "all of the above" energy policy, its ongoing devotion to handing out massive subsidies (wind, solar) and demand quotas (ethanol, biofuels) to some forms of energy while ramping up taxes and heavy-handed regulations on others reveals this commitment to be highly qualified and selectively applied.  
<http://www.forbes.com/sites/davidblackmon/2014/04/01/oil-gas-boom-2014-a-withering-regulatory-assault/>

**iWatch News - States target toxic chemicals as Washington fails to act** - 4/2/14 - Toxic reform legislation is either breathing with new life or being extinguished altogether. The toxics tug-of-war in state houses is direct fallout from the muddled environmental politicking of Washington, D.C.  
<http://www.publicintegrity.org/2014/04/02/14505/states-target-toxic-chemicals-washington-fails-act>

**Environmental Leader - Environmental Remediation Solution from TRC Receives Patent** - 4/2/14 - TRC Companies, Inc., has been awarded a new patent by the US Patent and Trademark Office to support additional features in its cap design that prevents releases of liquid coal tar, petroleum and other non-aqueous phase liquids at contaminated sediment sites. <http://www.environmentalleader.com/2014/04/02/environmental-remediation-solution-from-trc-receives-patent/>

**Greenwire - New technologies let EPA 'collect a lot more data in a lot more places'** - 4/1/14 - High school students toting pollution monitors the size of paperback books scoped out the future of environmental protection recently at a park in Brooklyn, N.Y. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1059997113>

**Environmental Leader - Lawmaker Opens Inquiry Into EPA Superfund Clean Up - 4/2/14** - A California lawmaker opened an inquiry with the EPA into shortfalls of toxic cleanup at Superfund sites.

<http://www.environmentalleader.com/2014/04/02/lawmaker-opens-inquiry-into-epa-superfund-clean-up/>

**ClimateWire - Most U.S. companies see water as a risk, but few spend money to reduce it - 4/2/14** - The rising cost of water-related challenges is becoming a big concern for many Fortune 500 companies -- but not enough for them to make equally big changes to their investments and water management practices.

<http://www.eenews.net/climatewire/stories/1059997128/>

**ClimateWire - Hagel to highlight security threats of climate change at summit with Southeast Asian officials - 4/2/14** - Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel will underscore the human and national security threats climate change presents at a meeting today with defense ministers from the 10-nation Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). <http://www.eenews.net/climatewire/stories/1059997176/>

**ClimateWire - Review of air permits finds high pollution rates for biomass energy - 4/2/14** - Economic incentives and legal technicalities have allowed for the construction of more 70 biomass plants in the last decade, according to a group opposed to generating electricity from burning plant matter.

<http://www.eenews.net/climatewire/stories/1059997162/>

**Farm Talk - EPA water proposal stirs ag controversy - 4/2/14** - Proposed new language in the Clean Water Act has some farm groups charging the government is over-stepping its authority by expanding jurisdiction of “waters of the United States.” <http://www.farmtalknewspaper.com/agnews/x2010449549/EPA-water-proposal-stirs-ag-controversy>

**RFD-TV - Farm Bureau opposes EPA water proposal - 4/2/14** - Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy says the proposed new Clean Water Act will not require farmers to obtain new permits. Tuesday, the American Farm Bureau Federation called the proposal a “serious threat” for farmers.

<http://www.rfdtv.com/story/25139599/farm-bureau-opposes-epa-water-proposal>

**Electric Co-op Today - GOP Lawmakers Slam EPA Water Rule - 4/2/14** - A water rule proposed by the Environmental Protection Agency would grind the U.S. economy to a halt by expanding federal authority over everything from ditches to seasonal streams, House GOP lawmakers told the agency.

<http://www.ect.coop/regulatory-watch/environmental-regulation/epa-water-proposal-slammed-by-gop-lawmakers/68353>

**CNN - Ted Turner: Time to finally protect wetlands, streams** - 4/2/14 - Poll after poll shows that a strong majority of Americans value clean drinking water. I write now to add my voice to the chorus demanding clean water. <http://www.cnn.com/2014/04/02/opinion/turner-wetlands-protection-epa/>

**BNB - EPA on Track to Propose Ozone Transport Rule by Summer, McCabe Tells State Officials** - 4/1/14 - The Environmental Protection Agency is on track to propose its rule to curb ozone pollution that crosses state lines in the East this summer, Janet McCabe, the agency's acting assistant administrator for air and radiation, told state environmental officials.

[http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split\\_display.adp?fedfid=43845438&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e8j3n5v9&split=0](http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=43845438&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e8j3n5v9&split=0)

**BNB - EPA Proposal to Regulate Carbon Dioxide From Existing Plants Under OMB Review** - 4/1/14 - The White House is reviewing an Environmental Protection Agency proposal that would set the first carbon dioxide emissions limits for existing power plants. However, the EPA has revealed few details of what the proposed new source performance standards might entail.

[http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split\\_display.adp?fedfid=43845445&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e8j4b8m1&split=0](http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=43845445&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e8j4b8m1&split=0)

**BNB - Senate Committee to Consider Nomination Of McCabe to Head EPA Air Office on April 8** - 4/1/14 - The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee will consider the nomination of Janet McCabe to head the Environmental Protection Agency's air office April 8, Sen. Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.) and a committee aide told Bloomberg BNA.

[http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split\\_display.adp?fedfid=43845463&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e8j4u7a5&split=0](http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=43845463&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e8j4u7a5&split=0)

**BNB - OIRA Chief Faces Tough Questions About Influence Over Federal Regulations** - 4/1/14 - Howard Shelanski, the administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, faced tough questions by public interest advocates expressing concerns that the agency exercises delaying tactics and undue influence over the federal rulemaking process.

[http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split\\_display.adp?fedfid=43845443&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e8j3x9a2&split=0](http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=43845443&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e8j3x9a2&split=0)

**BNB - Financing Plan Pushed for Water Infrastructure Bill** - 4/1/14 - More than 130 water utility leaders lobbied April 1 for the proposed Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act as part of water infrastructure legislation pending in Congress.

[http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split\\_display.adp?fedfid=43845472&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e8k3g3z9&split=0](http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=43845472&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e8k3g3z9&split=0)

**BNB - Most U.S. Companies in Survey Face Water-Related Challenges** - 4/1/14 - More than three out of four U.S. companies are facing water-related challenges today, while four out of five companies expect to face such challenges in the next five years, according to a survey of 51 U.S. companies.

[http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split\\_display.adp?fedfid=43845457&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e8j4t8z9&split=0](http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=43845457&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e8j4t8z9&split=0)

## **Press Releases:**

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>

*Example: Kansas City Structural Steel Superfund Site in Kansas City, Kan., Set for Redevelopment – 3/27/14*  
– Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364

**EPA Region 7 to Host Public Availability Meeting April 10 for Carter Carburetor Superfund Site in North St. Louis, Mo. – 4/2/14 – Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394**

## **Fact Sheets:**

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

*Example: Time-Critical Removal Action, Chemco Industries, Inc., Superfund Site, Topeka, Kansas - 2/8/08 -*  
Contact: Belinda Young, 7463

## **Upcoming Administrator/RA Events:**

\* New additions noted with an asterisk

**TBD** – Waters of the U.S. Outreach Event – University of Missouri, Columbia, Mo. Contact: Kris Lancaster 7557

**TBD** – Waters of the U.S. Outreach Event – University of Lincoln, Lincoln, Neb. Contact: Kris Lancaster 7557

**4/3/14** – Mid-American Environmental Compliance Conference, Overland Park, Kan. Contact: Dave Cozad, 7587

**4/22/14** – Sprint WasteWise Event, Overland Park, Kan. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

**4/22/14** – Interview with KSHB-TV, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557



**4/30/14** – Regional Tribal Operations Committee, Lawrence, Kan. Contact: Heather Hamilton, 7039

**4/30/14** – Westar Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, Topeka, Kan. Contact: Rebecca Weber, 7487

**5/1/14** – Meet with Missouri Department of Agriculture Director, Richard Fordyce, Columbia, Mo. Contact: Damon Frizzell, 7560

**DRA:**

**3/25-4/4/14** – Environmental Council of the States Conference, Sausalito, Calif. Contact: Dana Peters, 7444

**4/4/14** – Mid-America Environmental Compliance Conference, Overland Park, Kan. Contact: Dave Cozad, 7587

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**RA/Immediate Office**

None

**Other Events**

**AWMD**

None

**CNSL**

None

**ECO/EJ**

None

**ENSV**

None

## **PLMG**

**4/3/14** – US Corps of Engineers' Society of Military Engineers Annual Contracting Conference, Kansas City, Mo  
Contact: Chester Stovall, 7549

## **RA/OPA**

**4/3/14** - Healthy School Outreach, Iowa School Building and Ground Association, Riverside, Iowa Meeting  
location. Contact: Harry Diesel, 7382

**9/29-30/14** - Healthy School Outreach, Missouri School Plant Managers' Association Conference, Four Seasons,  
Lake of the Ozarks, Mo. Contact: Kathleen Fenton, 7874 and Harry Diesel, 7382

## **SUPR**

**4/3/14** – The R7 Emergency Response Program is attending the official Food, Agriculture, and Veterinary (FAV)  
Annex Senior Leadership Steering Committee (SLSC) introduction meeting hosted by the FEMA Region VII  
Regional Administrator. Contact: Scott Hayes, x7670

**4/3/214** – The Superfund Removal Program will participate in the Pipeline Association of Missouri Pipeline Safety  
and Emergency Response Program in Kansas City, Missouri. The program will combine a workshop with a  
facilitated tabletop exercise involving both industry and local, state and federal responders. Contact: Megan  
Schuette, x7630

## **WWPD**

**3/31-4/4/14** - Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act Enforcement Managers and Toxics Enforcement  
Managers meeting, Seattle, Wash. Contacts: Jamie Green, 7139, Royan Teter, 7609

**4/28-5/4/14** – Toxic Substances and Control Act Case Development to EPA Regions 1-4 Case Management

Officers, Washington, DC. Contact: Maria Morey, 7079

**5/5-8/14** – Environmental Leaders Institute State / Tribal / EPA Training Workshop, Shepherdstown, W.Va.  
Contact: Tabatha Adkins, 7128

**5/12-16/14** – National Total Maximum Daily Load/Measures and 303(d) Listing Conference, Denver, Co. Contacts:  
Tabatha Adkins, 7128, Bruce Perkins, 7067, Debby White, 7886